



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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### **Woodbine Man Jailed for Series of Burglaries and Telephone Wire Thefts**

A Woodbine man arrested in a series of residential burglaries and the theft of cable from telephone poles in western Howard County and Carroll County has been sentenced to 18 months in jail. Thomas Leo Hurley, 36, of the 14000 block of Frederick Road, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft scheme between \$10,000 to under \$100,000 in the burglary and theft cases in Howard County Circuit Court on Tuesday.

Assistant State's Attorney Scott A. Hammond told the court that Hurley and a co-defendant were arrested after undercover Howard County police detectives observed the two burglarizing a residence in Carroll County on June 26, 2016. Hammond stated that Hurley was involved in 10 residential burglaries in Howard County last June. He characterized the burglaries as "crimes of opportunity," all from homes with open garage doors. Hurley admitted to police that his co-defendant committed the burglaries while he remained in his pickup truck nearby. Items stolen from the garages included high-value bicycles, chain saws, golf clubs, and leaf blowers, all of which were pawned.

Hurley also was convicted for his role in a theft scheme where live telephone cable containing hundreds of strands of copper wiring was cut from utility poles and sold for scrap. Hammond stated that from June 9-18, 2016, hundreds of feet of cable were cut and removed from locations in Glenwood, Clarksville and Sykesville. The line-cutting reportedly caused service disruptions for Verizon Communications customers. Hammond said that the telephone cable weighed hundreds of pounds.

Hurley apologized to Judge Timothy J. McCrone who sentenced Hurley to 10 years, suspending all but 18 months to be served at the Howard County Detention Center. Upon release, he will be placed on three years of supervised probation. Hurley was ordered to make restitution to the burglary victims and a judgment of \$131,167.31 was entered in favor of Verizon.

Hurley's co-defendant, Angela Marie King, 33, of the 6600 block of Runkles Road, Mount Airy, pleaded guilty to similar charges last fall and was sentenced to an 18-month jail term.

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